



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN SEEKS INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL SURVEILLANCE OF GAY AMERICANS

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) today promised "to seek prompt and decisive Congressional action, if necessary, to terminate U.S. government intrusions into the private lives of gay Americans." Waxman called for an immediate Congressional investigation following reports that federal agencies routinely engaged in so-called "law enforcement" activities targeting gay Americans and members of civil rights organizations who were suspected of no crime.

The charges were made by the Gay Rights National Lobby and substantiated for researcher, Larry Bush, a reporter for The Advocate, by senior government officials and by documents acquired under the Freedom of Information Act.

Waxman described the alleged government activities as "shameful, and un-American -- an anathema to our democratic society. Under the guise of enforcing the law, these agencies appear to have subverted the very Constitution on which that law is premised."

The report alleges "fugitive-style investigations" of gays, surveillance of gay meeting places, collection of names of suspected gays and associates of suspected gays, and infiltration and use of informants to build files on gay civil rights organizations. Bush reports FBI collaboration with intelligence operatives from Great Britain, the U.S. military services and the C.I.A.

Waxman indicated that he would also seek an investigation into the Bush allegations by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights and through his membership on the Government
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Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights. He stated his hope was that the investigations would reveal that the agency practices have been long-abandoned. "Otherwise," he promised, "I will seek legislation to end them immediately."

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